



Tuesday: October 27, 2015

“All these people died still believing what God had promised them. They did not receive what was promised, but they saw it all from a distance and welcomed it. They agreed that they were foreigners and nomads here on earth. Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own. If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back. But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.”

Hebrews 11:13-16 (NLT)

Today we examine two more characteristics of faith that go along with trust and action, which are perseverance and expectation.

Faith Is Perseverance

Faith can be lost entirely to fear and unbelief. Obstacles, time, and resistance can cause a person to feel depleted, discouraged, and worn down.

Trust and action must be accompanied by deliberate loyalty. Faith is the willingness to go to immeasurable lengths to keep a promise, even in bleak circumstances. Faithful people find critical resources that keep their eyes fixed on their goal.

Likewise, faith in Christ demands the endurance of hard times. The Bible says, “Consider it pure joy . . . whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.” Christians turn to prayer, the Bible, and other believers to renew and strengthen their faith.

Faith Is Expectation

Factors beyond their control often rob people of the joy of seeing the fruit of their faithfulness. Jobs can be terminated, marriages sometimes end in divorce, and people may die too soon.

However, Christians believe their faith has one sure, happy ending in spite of the pain in this world—and they don't believe that anything in this world can rob them of that promise. As a matter of fact, Christians do not expect to see their reward in this lifetime.

James 1:12 says, *“Blessed is the one who perseveres under trial because, having stood the test, that person will receive the crown of life that the Lord has promised to those who love him.”*

Christians hold an unshakable belief that they will one day inherit eternal life with God. Until then, they fix their eyes on the glorious doors of heaven through which they will find their joy.

Prayer: *God, thank you for the assurance we can have in you through Jesus! As I take a step of faith in this Built to Last journey I pray that through it I will come to know you better and trust you more.*